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Marginal Column

By ALASTAIR BUCHAN

THE postponement of the Bermuda Conference was received by American public opinion with a sigh of something like relief. There has, of course, been considerable alarm about the sympathy with the reason for it, Sir Winston Churchill's indisposition. Despite the fact that Sir Winston's recovery, earlier in the summer, of a serious conference with Soviet Russia has been heavily disapproved of both in the Press and in official circles, the popular sympathy with the reason for it, Sir Winston Churchill's indisposition, has not been diminished at all.

JUDGING from the comments of newspapers and Congressional leaders, the public reaction is that the postponement of the Bermuda meeting means the laying of the inconvenient ghost of Four-Power conversations with Russia — for the time being at least and perhaps for good. On the other hand, the postponement is a strong endorsement of the White House and the State Department, although the whole administration from the President downwards is a strong opponent of Four-Power conversations until Russia has given the evidence of a new approach to the causes of international tension in Germany, in Austria and in Korea, which the President outlined in his important foreign policy speech of April 14.

PRESIDENT Eisenhower was impatient to confront Sir Winston and discover what the British Prime Minister was really thinking and if possible to exercise some gentle persuasion. Moreover, in the state of nervousness and worry which has been produced in Washington by the obvious decline of American leadership in Europe and the demonstration of its inability to control the situation in Korea, there was a strong desire to reaffirm publicly the fundamental unity of thought and action which exists — or is supposed to exist — between the United States and Britain.

FOR this reason the visit of Lord Salisbury, the British Acting Foreign Secretary, and Mr. E. A. Butler, the French Foreign Minister, to Washington, considered here as a substitute for the Bermuda Conference. Mr. R. A. Butler, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer and Acting Prime Minister, made it clear when announcing the visit in the House of Commons on Monday that this meeting of Foreign Ministers, known colloquially here as "Little Bermuda," was decided upon partly in order that the impetus to joint discussion given by the preparations for the Bermuda Conference should not be lost. In Washington, "Little Bermuda" is regarded as an excellent means of discussing certain problems, notably Egypt and Indo-China, that might not have come up for discussion at all had the Bermuda meeting been held as planned, but which nevertheless cannot be ignored. Its importance is that it is the first such meeting of Foreign Ministers since the international situation, both in Korea and in Germany, began to change.

IT should provide the first positive indication of whether it is still possible for Britain and the United States to produce a common policy on all big questions or whether the situation of the past seven years in which two great power-systems were led by the United States and Russia, in no giving place to a world of several groups of which Britain, Western Europe and the Commonwealth, form a friendly but distinct system from that of the United States and its other allies.

Washington, July 7.

Travel Abroad Made Easier

Banks authorized to deal in foreign currency will be entitled to allocate the sum required to purchase tickets for travel abroad without prior approval by the Treasury, according to a circular issued in Jerusalem yesterday.

It will be the duty of the banks to check only whether the applicant has a valid exit visa, and to collect the travel tax due.

This will apply both to tickets bought for Israel pounds, and those sent to Israel from abroad.

Tickets purchased in foreign currency duly handed over to the Treasury at the rate of IL1 per dollar are not liable to the tax.

The new tax rates for overseas travel are cheaper rather than more expensive.

Water Found in Arava, Eshkol Tells Knesset

By SHAYAT SHAPIRO

Post Knesset Correspondent

Water has been found in Wadi Giraft, 100 kilometers to the north of Eilat, after 18 unsuccessful trials, Mr. Eshkol told the Knesset yesterday. He was introducing the IL-30m. Interim Development Budget for June and July.

"Finding water in that part of the Arava after so many futile trials was really the Hand of God," Mr. Eshkol said. "That is the source of my optimism," Mr. Eshkol remarked.

The IL-30m. is to be spent, among other things, on establishing new settlements. IL-3.5m. for irrigation, IL-1.5m. for industry, IL-1.5m. for housing for new immigrants, IL-1m. for municipalities, IL-1m. for Government buildings, IL-1.5m. for roads, IL-1.5m. IL-2m. will be appropriated to the Ministry of Labour, to sponsor relief works.

The Knesset referred to Committee the estimate for expenditure on several items, which had been covered by the budgets of other ministries, such as the payment of about IL-10m. in interest on loans taken by the Government.

Mr. Aharon Zaidman (Mapam) said last year's budget involved a deficit of IL-30m. and Dr. Y. Bader (Herut) estimated the deficit was IL-18m.

Mr. Eshkol said he would prove in the Finance Committee that there was no deficit at all. Dr. H. Forster (Progressive) suggested that, in order to constitute a Reserve Fund and ease the position of the Ministry of Finance, a five-per cent cut in all ministries should be effected.

Left Motion Rejected

The Knesset referred to committee the motion to reject the Bill, rejecting a motion by extreme-left parties to return the Bill to the Government as "anti-Semitic."

Mr. J. Shapira (Mapam), the last speaker on the Bill, remarked that the scale of increases of rent had been worked out on the basis of official statistics, showing the comparative density of room population.

The average one-room flat, statistics indicate, is occupied by 1.44 persons, in two-room flats there are, on the average, 2.3 persons per room; in three-room flats, 2.5 persons; and in four-room flats, 1.1 persons.

That explains, Mr. Shapira said, why the rent of one-room flats has been increased by 70% and higher rates have been suggested for larger flats.

The Knesset was almost unanimous in rejecting the motion. Dr. Bader (Herut), recalling the "Chamber Theatre Case" of a few years ago, proposed that the Bill be extended to persons whose marriage was brought under the protection of the law.

Mr. E. Ichilov (General Zionists) said landlords should be assured an income of five to seven per cent; the stimulus might induce investors from abroad to build here.

Mr. S. Forster, also a General Zionists, caused a minor stir by saying the Bill was, in some respects, a step backward for landlords than to tenants, especially on the leasing of business premises. Mr. N. Heth, a fellow General Zionists, hastened to the rescue of the landlords by demanding the complete abolition of rent control in new housing developments. The Minister of Justice, Mr. P. Rosen, who wound up the debate, assured Religious Zionists speakers that the Government is not going to legalize extramarital relations. But the protection of the Bill must be extended to persons whose marriage cannot be legally recognized here for one reason or another.

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WORK IN PROGRESS
By MORDECHAI NAMIR
Published by the
UNION FEDERATION OF JEWISH LABOUR IN ISRAEL

Communists Call UN To Liaison Meeting Today

SEOUL, Tuesday (UP). — The Communists today called a meeting of liaison officers for noon tomorrow at Panmunjom, presumably to answer U.N. Commander Gen. Mark Clark's proposal for an immediate armistice with or without the approval of South Korea.

It was believed that the Communists were ready at last to reveal also whether they were willing to go ahead and sign a truce without the return of 27,000 North Korean war prisoners released on Rhee's orders.

At a liaison officers' meeting on June 29, Gen. Clark's note was handed to the Communists. In it he told them it was "impossible" for the U.N. to return the escaped prisoners and suggested the U.N. and Communists sign a truce without specific guarantees that the U.N. could hold Rhee in line.

Meanwhile, the talks between Rhee and U.N. Assistant Secretary of State Walter Bedell Smith on Rhee's price for allowing a truce remained deadlocked. But Rhee told the U.N. he would accept any plan which would guarantee Korea's survival.

Denies Rejecting Truce

Rhee denied reports that he had rejected an armistice. But he declined to go into detail on his talks with Mr. Robertson because both sides have agreed to keep them secret.

Rhee did not this morning meet Mr. Robertson, with whom he has had nine interviews since the suspension of the main truce talks on June 20. Instead, the U.N. negotiator today saw the 8th Army Commander, General Maxwell Taylor.

Observers believe they talked over final orders on the 8th Army's terms. Rhee should precipitate a crisis.

South students supporting Rhee's demand for the unification of Korea demonstrated this morning and used a loudspeaker van to shout slogans outside the American Embassy.

British Public Wants Peking Admitted to UN

LONDON, Tuesday (UP). — Nearly half of Britain's population want Communist China to be invited to join the U.N. when a Korean armistice is signed, a public opinion poll reported today.

The "Daily Express" poll of public opinion showed 46.5 per cent of the population favoured China's U.N. membership, 29.5 were against it and 24 per cent were uncertain.

Three hundred rioters wrecked the building in an angry demonstration against the party leadership. Chinese Communist Party, the main opposition to President Chiang Kai-shek.

BRITAIN'S DELEGATE

LONDON, Tuesday (UP). — Maj.-Gen. E. Bastin will be the British Commonwealth representative on the Korean Military Armistice Commission when it is eventually formed, the War Office announced yesterday. Gen. Bastin, 50, served in South East Asia and the Middle East during World War II.

Appeal for Realism Made By Sprinzak at Agency

An appeal to the Jewish people for the growth and expansion of Zionism was made by Mr. Y. Sprinzak, Knesset Speaker, in his reply to the debate on the crisis in Zionism at the plenary session of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem.

Neither optimism nor pessimism but realism should be the guide to Zionism, he asserted. Dr. Nahum Goldmann for his part, reiterated his conviction that the State is incapable of fulfilling the mission of uniting the Jews in the dispersion. The Zionist Organization, and only the Zionist Organization, claimed, is capable of implementing this great task.

He disputed the Prime Minister's view that the Zionist Organization should dedicate itself exclusively to cultural and educational work.

Culture and education are only some of the functions of the movement, he asserted. It is essential that the Zionist Organization should continue to perform its manifold constructive tasks.

Mr. Ben-Zion, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, summed up the debate. He declared that there would be no decisions or resolutions because the plenary session of the Executive had been called to prepare the ground for the Zionist Council and the Zionist Congress.

A considerable measure of agreement has been revealed in the debate, Mr. Locker maintained. The need for change and reform has been recognized. The importance of obtaining the active cooperation of non-Zionists has been understood, notwithstanding the differences of opinion in regard to ways and means.

There is a consensus that the Zionist Organization must continue to function in the field of immigration, absorption, colonization, and education.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 6)

Iraq Army to Honour Arab Defence Pact

BAGHDAD, Tuesday. — (UP). — A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said today Iraq considers its army's foremost responsibility to be defense within the country's frontiers, but will "fully implement" its part in the Arab joint defense pact.

His statement came in reply to a comment attributed to Egypt's Mohamed Naguib on June 27, to the effect that Iraq's Defense Minister, Nouri E-Said had told Parliament that the Iraq army's defense would be limited only within Iraq's frontiers.

\$5.2m. in New Orders Placed in Germany

COLOGNE, Tuesday (INA). — The Israel Purchasing Mission today sent to German factories the second batch of orders for industrial goods valued at \$5.2m. to be supplied under the reparations agreement.

Three weeks ago, Israel placed orders totalling \$8.5m. Petroleum products to a substantially higher value have already been delivered to Israel from British Commonwealth countries and paid for with German sterling surpluses.

On today's shopping list, the largest category is that of semi-finished products made of non-ferrous metals and alloys, such as copper, brass, lead and aluminum. Orders with a face value of \$2m. have been placed for such items as bars, tubes and wire in this group.

Orders totalling \$1.5m. were placed for products of the electro-technical industry with cables accounting for almost the entire amount.

Some even million dollars is being spent for hot-rolled rolling mill products such as structural steel bars, steel tinplate and sheetpile, while cold-rolled steel products total only \$200,000 this time. For high tension insulators, \$250,000 have been earmarked and telegraph and telephone lines are being ordered for \$75,000. Lesser amounts cover orders for chemicals, tyre tubes and precision instruments.

Salisbury May Carry Invitation To Ike for Big 3 Talks in London

By George Lichthelm, POST Correspondent

LONDON, Tuesday. — Many members left the Commons last night under the impression that the Government intends to urge a three-power meeting in London to spare Prime Minister Churchill the strain of a voyage. The suggestion was made by a Labour member and welcomed by Chancellor of the Exchequer R.A. Butler who gave the impression that it coincided with his own views.

Churchill Briefs Envoy To 'Little Bermuda'

LONDON, Tuesday (Reuters). — Acting Foreign Secretary Lord Salisbury died tonight with Sir Winston Churchill for final talks before flying to America tomorrow for the "Big Three" meeting on Friday.

Normally well-informed opinion here coincides with the American view that the talks are not likely to produce anything sensational. The Ministers are expected to discuss Korea, Russian policy since Stalin died, unrest in East Europe, Malaya and Indo-China, and defence plans.

The Marquess of Salisbury is expected to press Prime Minister Churchill's case for an early meeting with Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov, since it is felt here that this subject must await the postwar conference between the leaders themselves.

French public opinion is increasingly coming to think that France cannot take part in European defence plans and fight a war in Indo-China, according to reports from Paris, and Foreign Minister Georges Bidault is also likely to insist that no chance must be lost for securing German unification.

U.S. Not Informed Of Plans to Shift Talks

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (AP). — White House Secretary James C. Hagerty said today that he had not been informed of the shift of the forthcoming Big Three conference from Bermuda to London. Told that the possibility of the shift was being discussed yesterday in the House of Commons, Mr. Hagerty replied that he had no information.

Japan Labour May Bolt ICFTU for WFTU

TOKYO, Tuesday (UP). — The Yoshida Government and Japan's powerful left-wing labour leadership clashed today on the eve of a critical union convention which could swing the bulk of this nation's 4 million workers into the Communist camp.

The quarrel came to a head when Labour Minister Zentaro Koseki this afternoon warned the Sohyo — left-wing dominated National Council of Labour Organizations — to cancel its political strike on July 11 against an anti-strike bill now before the Japanese Parliament.

Greece Lifts Most Bans On Imports and Exports

ATHENS, Tuesday (AP). — Twenty-year-old restrictions on imports and exports of all except "super-luxury" items will be lifted in Greece on Thursday, Commerce Minister Theodoros Capoulas announced today.

The Government believes this freeing of commerce will benefit consumers considerably, as it will do away with bank commissions and other incidental expenses which have been encumbering imports, the Minister added.

With the exception of certain super-luxuries such as precious stones, gold and silver ware, perfumes and expensive automobiles worth more than \$1,800, the import of all goods is now unrestricted and no longer subject to import licenses from the Ministry of Commerce.

Praque Joins 'Velvet Glove' Policy on Labour's Demand

Absenteeism Penalties Cancelled

VIENNA, Tuesday (Reuters). — Czechoslovakia today cancelled a week-old law making absenteeism from factory work a capital offence in the latest move of a new "velvet glove" policy in East Europe.

Do Gasperi Talked Into Forming New Cabinet

ROME, Tuesday (AP). — Outgoing Premier Alcide De Gasperi tonight reluctantly agreed to try and form a new Italian Government.

In a three-hour meeting with President Luigi Einaudi, Mr. De Gasperi urged that some other political leader be called upon to head a new post-election government.

However, the spokesman said, the President had prevailed upon the 72-year-old statesman to attempt to form his fourth consecutive government despite the slender majority his Centre Coalition now holds.

Radio Reports Fresh Riots in E. Germany

BERLIN, Tuesday (UP). — New outbreaks of violent battling between East German workers and Communist East Berlin police were reported today by the North-West German Radio, which quoted "reliable eyewitness reports."

The workers demanded the release from prison of fellow-workers arrested by Communist police and Russian military authorities following the bloody June 17 rebellion, the radio said.

The report was so far not confirmed by other sources. West German police said they had not heard the reports.

Ben Zur to E. Europe

TEL AVIV, Tuesday (ITIM). — Mr. Shmuel Ben Zur, Director of the East European division of the Ministry, flew to Istanbul tonight.

He said he would proceed on routine visits to Israel diplomatic missions in Belgrade, Bucharest, Prague, Budapest, Sofia and Warsaw.

Arabs Boycott IATA Talks While EI Al Represented

By SHAHE GUERENLIAN, POST Correspondent

NICOSIA, Tuesday. — Arab delegates stalked out of this morning's session of the International Air Transport Association's Middle East Working Groups Conference at Kyrenia in protest against the presence of an EI Al representative, but attended the evening session, when Mr. Yehuda Atir of EI Al did not appear.

Mr. Atir said after the session that "I.A.T.A. Conference delegates have been given a choice of sessions or not."

The conference, an annual affair, was convened to discuss purely business matters in preparation for the I.A.T.A. world conference in November.

Two Egyptians, representing Misrair, Egypt's national airline, left the conference chamber soon after the opening address by Mr. Martin Clemens, British Commissioner of the District, and by Lord Amherst, Chairman of Cyprus Airways — the host airline.

The Egyptians were followed by the Iraqi and Lebanese representatives, who also walked out. The meeting then broke up, each side telephoning its respective Consul in Nicosia to advise on the developments.

Late this afternoon, efforts were still being made to find a solution to the impasse as the Arab side remained adamant.

35 Lebanese Injured In Election Clashes

More than 35 persons were injured in Beirut on Monday night and Tuesday morning when supporters of rival candidates clashed in parliamentary election campaigns, NEABS reports. Traffic was blocked in the centre of the city for three hours due to election rallies.

Syrians Refuse U.S. Vessel Port Entry

An American steamer was refused permission to enter the Syrian port of Latakia on Monday because its name appeared on the Arab boycott list as being between the U.S. and Israel, ANA reported yesterday.

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Rumania Reported On Verge of Famine

VIENNA, Tuesday (Reuters). — Travelers from Bucharest today reported near famine in Rumania and rumours of a new currency reform.

Ale, followed by a spring drought, caused an almost complete failure of this year's fruit and vegetable crops, the report said. The price of maize, staple food for many Rumanians, has been doubled and city green grocers were planting grass in their window boxes, often the only green in the city.

Rumours of currency reform have driven the supply of consumer goods underground and caused prices to rise. But there was no hoarding of food as peasants had nothing left to board, the travellers said.

Rumanians blamed the food shortage not only on the crop failure but also on the coming "Festival of Youth." The Government had invited some 30,000 guests from all over the world and was preparing to feed them all and give them the impression of prosperity.

Except for the young, who were being pampered by the regime and given plenty of cheap meat as part of their preparation for army life, there was great dissatisfaction among the people, the travellers said.

The workers demanded the release from prison of fellow-workers arrested by Communist police and Russian military authorities following the bloody June 17 rebellion, the radio said.

The report was so far not confirmed by other sources. West German police said they had not heard the reports.

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Cables in Brief

CANCER.—Doctors working for the British Empire Cancer Campaign cautiously suggested in London yesterday that coal smoke and tobacco smoke may jointly help to cause cancer of the lung.

CRIMINALS.—Japanese war criminals on Manus Island (Australian trust territory) in the Pacific may serve the remainder of their sentences in Japan. Manus is a volcanic island in the Admiralty archipelago off New Guinea where over 500 Japanese war criminals are detained. Some are serving life sentences.

RELATIONS.—Italy and Yemen have decided to establish formal diplomatic relations. **Sgn. Pasquale Jannelli**, Italian Ambassador to Egypt, will serve concurrently as Italy's first Minister to the south-west Arabian kingdom. It was announced in Rome yesterday.

ENVOY.—The appointment of Sergel Vinogradov as Ambassador to France was announced in Moscow yesterday in the "Izvestia." The newspaper said that he will replace A. Pavlov, who has been transferred to other duties.

COURT SCENE.—A young Maltese shot his wife four times

through the head in the law courts in Tunis yesterday because she refused to withdraw a divorce petition and return to him. A judge saw the shooting.

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